

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-2. Canceled.

3. (New) A method of obtaining an oligonucleotide that confers secretory function to a protein, comprising:

(a) cloning into the expression vector a heterogeneous pool of oligonucleotides,  $x+y+z$  nucleotides in length, said oligonucleotides comprising a 5' randomized sequence  $x$  nucleotides in length, a central sequence  $y$  nucleotides in length, and a 3' randomized sequence  $z$  nucleotides in length, said heterogeneous pool having nucleic acid sequences representing a random sampling of the  $4^{x+z}$  possible sequences for oligonucleotides of said length, wherein said cloned oligonucleotides are transcribed:

(b) introducing a random sampling of said cloned heterogeneous pool of oligonucleotides into a population of cells that, prior to introduction of the oligonucleotides, do not express the secreted protein,

(c) thereafter selecting said population of cells for a subpopulation of cells expressing the secreted protein, and

(d) isolating from said subpopulation of cells an oligonucleotide comprising said sequence that confers said secretory function to said protein.

4. (New) The method of Claim 3, wherein the sequence that confers said secretory function to the protein encodes an amino acid sequence of from 13 to 36 amino acids.

5. (New) The method of Claim 3, wherein the cells are prokaryotic.
6. (New) The method of Claim 5, wherein the cells are *E. coli*.
7. (New) The method of Claim 6, wherein the secreted protein is  $\beta$ -lactamase.
8. (New) The method of Claim 3, wherein the subpopulation of cells is isolated in a selective medium.
9. (New) The method of Claim 8, wherein the cells are isolated by growth in an antibiotic.
10. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein the subpopulation of cells is isolated by growing the cells in ampicillin.
11. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein the subpopulation of cells is isolated by growing the cells in tetracycline.
12. (New) The method of Claim 3, wherein the cells are eukaryotic.
13. (New) The method of Claim 3, wherein the 5' randomized sequence x nucleotides in length and the 3' randomized sequence z nucleotides in length are together no more than about 24 nucleotides.